

of our Union. My brother members will, I am sure, pardon me for paying a passing tribute to the memory of one who, though in humble circumstances, was as kindly a man and as enthusiastic an ornithologist as I have ever met with.

It only now remains to acknowledge with thanks the universal kindness received from our Turkish friends, and from Mr. Henderson of Aleppo, Mr. Tattarachi of Mersina, Mr. Raad of Adana, Mr. Binns of Angora, and the members of the American Missions at Adana, Marash, Aintab, and Kaisariyeh, and finally to apologize to the readers of this paper for the quantity of rambling description, as compared with the small amount of ornithological matter, therein contained.

[To be continued.]

VII.—*Additional Notes on the Ornithology of Transvaal.*

By THOMAS AYRES. Communicated by JOHN HENRY GURNEY.

(Continued from Ibis, 1879, p. 405.)

SYLVIETTA RUFESCENS (Vieill.). Short-tailed Bush-Warbler. Male and female, Rustenburg, July 18 and August 9.

Irides hazel, bill dusky brown, with the basal portion of the lower mandible pale; tarsi and feet reddish brown.

This species is plentiful amongst the scattered scrub and trees, where it is to be found solitary or in pairs, creeping restlessly about the foliage.

PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS (Linn.). British Willow-Warbler. One specimen shot at Potchefstroom, 22nd March.

This species appears yearly at Potchefstroom, more or less plentifully.

SYLVIA SALICARIA (Linn.). Garden-Warbler.

Male, shot 20th February, in full moult.

Female shot 22nd March, very fat; moult apparently completed.

This Warbler also appears yearly at Potchefstroom, where it is to be found sparsely in the hedgerows.

ACROCEPHALUS ARUNDINACEUS (Linn.). European Greater Reed-Warbler.

Male killed 20th March, moulting primaries.

Male, killed 22nd March ; moult complete.

This species has been exceptionally plentiful about Potchefstroom during our summer of 1877-78. On one occasion early in 1878 I saw three or four together amongst some high weeds in the town ; they also frequent hedge-rows and reed-beds.

AEDON LEUCOPHRYS (Vieill.). White-browed Chat-Warbler.

I found a few of these Warblers on the south side of the Magaliesbergen, about Oliphant's nek; but they are by no means plentiful in the Rustenburg district.

AEDON FASCIOLATA (Smith). Barred-breasted Chat-Warbler.

Cisticola fasciolata at p. 273 of Sharpe's 'Layard.'

I only saw two of these Warblers on the Magaliesbergen ; they were amongst some low thorn bush on the south side, and were chasing one another about with so much activity that I had much difficulty in getting a shot, and only obtained one of them, a female ; this was on 28th May.

CISTICOLA CURSITANS (Frankl.). European Fantail.

This is a scarce species about Rustenburg, as is also *C. tinienis*. I have found *C. cursitans* about Potchefstroom inhabiting mimosa-scrub, and also the open grass-field.

336. CISTICOLA RUFILATA (Hartl.). Rufous Grey-backed Fantail.

Female, Rustenburg, 17th July. Irides light hazel ; bill pale bluish on the lower mandible, but with the tip and the upper mandible light dusky brown ; tarsi and feet pale.

This is also a scarce species, frequenting dense jungle in gullies, singly or in pairs.

[The specimen sent has been kindly examined and identified by Mr. Sharpe ; but it seems to me to be doubtful whether *C. rufilata* is in reality specifically distinct from *C. chiniana*. —J. H. G.]

CISTICOLA CHINIANA (Smith). Larger Grey-backed Fantail.

This is also an uncommon bird about Rustenburg; the specimen sent was one of two which I met with amongst scattered scrub.

337. CISTICOLA ABERRANS (Smith). Aberrant Fantail.

Sex uncertain, Rustenburg, 29th July. Irides hazel; bill dusky brown, paler on the under mandible; tarsi and feet pale.

I obtained this specimen amongst some tall grass in a ravine of the mountains; I saw one other, but did not succeed in getting it.

[In 'The Ibis' for 1868, p. 155, I mentioned that a note by Mr. Ayres on the habits of a *Drymæca* which was referred to the present species in 'The Ibis' for 1863, p. 324, really applied to *D. affinis*; Mr. Sharpe has overlooked this correction, and has quoted Mr. Ayres's note as referring to *Cisticola aberrans* at p. 272 of his edition of Mr. Layard's work.

I cannot agree with Mr. Sharpe's view, expressed in the same article, that *C. smithi* is merely the female of *C. aberrans*; *C. smithi* seems to me to be a distinct species, smaller, with the tail proportionally shorter, and usually more free from striation on the back, which (so far as I have observed) is always present, though not very distinct, in *C. aberrans*.

I have noted the following measurements of the two species:—

	Wing.	Bill.	Tarsus.
<i>C. aberrans.</i>			
Presumed ♂, Rustenburg.....	2·3	2·7	·08
♂, Mareco district.....	2·3	2·6	·08
<i>C. smithi.</i>			
♂, Ovampo-Land	2·1	1·9	·07
♂, Rustenburg	2·1	1·6	·07
♂, Do.	2·2	1·7	·06
♂, Do.	2·1	1·7	·07
♂, Do.	2·1	1·6	0·7
♂, Potchefstroom	2·1	1·8	0·7
♀, Do.	2·1	1·8	0·7
♀, Pinetown, Natal	2·0	1·7	0·8

The above-mentioned specimens are all in my possession, except the last, which is preserved in the British Museum.—J. H. G.]

338. *DRYMÆCA AFFINIS*, Smith. Tawny-flanked Grass-Warbler.

Male, Rustenburg, June 6. Irides light hazel; bill dusky brown, the under mandible pale at the base; tarsi and feet reddish-pale.

Female, Rustenburg, August 2nd. Irides hazel; bill nearly black, the basal part of the under mandible ashy white; tarsi and feet pale.

This is a common species in the Rustenburg mountains, and is generally found in small companies.

[In 'The Ibis' for 1874, p. 101, I explained that a note by Mr. Ayres, which was applied to this species in 'The Ibis' for 1871, p. 150, was in reality intended to apply to *D. flavicans*. Mr. Sharpe, at p. 258 of his edition of Layard, has overlooked this correction.—J. H. G.]

DRYMÆCA FLAVICANS (Vieill.). Black-chested Grass-Warbler.

Sex uncertain (black gorget only partially developed). Shot near Potchefstroom, 24th May. Irides bright hazel; bill black, tarsi and feet light brown.

This is not a common species above the Magaliesbergen.

[Mr. Sharpe is not quite correct in saying at p. 254 of his edition of 'Layard,' that in this species "the tail-feathers never have a subterminal spot." In the majority of specimens these spots are absent; but I have four (all from Transvaal) in which they are not so: these specimens are a black-breasted male, killed 17th January, in which the spot is present (more or less distinctly) on all the rectrices, a similar male killed 20th February, a black-breasted female killed the same day, in which these spots are present, but less strongly marked, and a female without the black breast, in which the spot appears on all the rectrices, except the longest and shortest. The following are Transvaal specimens in my possession in which the subterminal spot is absent from the rectrices:—a

black-breasted male and female, of which the date of the capture has not been noted; an unsexed specimen with hardly any trace of the black breast, killed 20th April; a male with partial black breast, shot 14th May; and another unsexed bird with very slight traces of black on the breast, which was obtained on 28th July.

Both the absence and presence of the black gorget and also of the dark subterminal spot on the rectrices in this species would seem to be due to causes of which we are at present ignorant.—J. H. G.]

SPHENÆACUS AFRICANUS (Gmel.). Pointed-tailed Grass-Warbler.

This species occurs in the Magaliesbergen, but is not very common.

339. ANTHOSCOPIUS CAPENSIS (Gmel.). Cape Dwarf Tit.

Female, Potchefstroom, 8th April. Irides umber-brown, with an outer ring of pale blue; bill horn-black, but with the commissure nearly white; tarsi and feet blue-ash.

Female, Rustenburg, 29th May.

This is a common species in the Rustenburg District; but I have never met with its nest.

[I omitted to number this species when first recorded in Mr. Ayres's Transvaal lists in 'The Ibis' for 1878, p. 286; I have therefore now supplied the omission.—J. H. G.]

PARISOMA SUBCÆRULEUM (Vieill.). Rufous-vented Grignet.

This species is not uncommon about Rustenburg.

PARUS AFER, Gmel. South-African Grey Tit.

This Tit is common amongst the wooded hill-sides of the Magaliesbergen; it is a restless bird in its habits.

340. PARUS NIGER, Vieill. South-African Black Tit.

Male and female. Irides umber-brown; bill black; tarsi and feet pale ash-colour.

As far as I can remember, I have never met with this bird in the Potchefstroom district; but it is common about Rustenburg, and has similar restless habits to the species last mentioned.

ANTHUS CAFFER, Sund. Caffer Pipit.

Male, shot 2nd April. Irides dusky brown; bill the same, but with the basal part of the lower mandible pale; tarsi and feet pale.

This species is very common in open glades; I have obtained it in both the Rustenburg and Potchefstroom Districts.

341. ANTHUS LINEIVENTRIS, Sund. Streaky-breasted Pipit.

Female, Rustenburg, 29th July. Irides light umber; bill pale, but with the ridge and tip dusky brown; tarsi and feet pale. Total length $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The stomach of the specimen sent contained grasshoppers and other insects; it is a very uncommon species, frequenting rocky hill-sides, especially where a stream issues from the rock.

342. ANTHUS BRACHYURUS, Sund. Short-tailed Pipit.

Female, Rustenburg, 7th August. Irides light umber; bill, tarsi, and feet as noted in 'The Ibis' for 1863, p. 327.

This Pipit is found sparsely amongst the open glades of the hill-sides. I have not observed more than two or three together.

ALAUDA CONIROSTRIS, Sund. Pink-billed Lark.

Female adult, a solitary bird shot on the open flats near Potchefstroom, 16th August.

Male immature (apparently quite a young bird), obtained 31st January.

Male immature (somewhat older than the preceding specimen) obtained 10th May.

MEGALOPHONUS NÆVIUS, Strickl. White-browed Lark.

Male, Rustenburg, 4th June. Irides hazel; bill bluish-pale, dusky on the ridge; tarsi and feet dusky pale.

Female, Rustenburg, 25th June. Bill pale, otherwise like the male.

MEGALOPHONUS PLANICOLA (Licht.). Plain-loving Lark.

Male, adult, Rustenburg, 19th August.

Male immature, near Potchefstroom, May.

I only saw two of these Larks in the Rustenburg district.

FRINGILLARIA FLAVIVENTRIS (Vieill.). Golden-breasted Bunting.

Female, shot 27th December. Irides dusky ; bill, upper mandible and tip of lower dusky black, remainder of lower mandible dull brick-red.

This is a very common Bunting throughout the wooded parts of the Magaliesbergen.

343. FRINGILLARIA TAHAPISI, Smith. Seven-streaked Bunting.

Male in full adult dress, Potchefstroom, 4th February. Irides dusky ; bill, upper mandible dusky brown, under mandible gamboge-yellow ; tarsi and feet light yellowish brown (more yellow after death).

Female in nearly full adult dress, Potchefstroom, 7th April. Under mandible pale yellowish ; tarsi and feet light brown, otherwise as in adult male.

Male in immature (or perhaps winter) plumage, Rustenburg, 23rd May. Under mandible pale, otherwise as in adult male.

This Bunting affects rocky hill-sides with little bush ; it is found in small companies, and is generally very tame, feeding on the ground like the preceding species ; about Rustenburg it is not common.

HYPHANTORNIS AURIFRONS (Temm.) Golden-crowned Weaver bird.

Female, Rustenburg, 2nd August. Irides light umber ; bill, basal parts very pale yellow, ridge and tip delicate pale brown ; tarsi and feet ashy pale.

This bird and the two species next mentioned were shot whilst feeding amongst the flowers of the parasitic plant that the Sugar-birds are so fond of.

HYPHANTORNIS MARIQUENSIS (Smith). Mariqua Weaver bird.

Male in winter dress, Rustenburg, 17th July. Irides reddish tawny-yellow ; bill pale brown, lighter on the under mandible ; tarsi and feet light dusky brown.

HYPHANTORNIS VITELLINUS (Licht.). Lichtenstein's Weaver bird.

Male in winter dress. Irides dingy tawny yellow; bill bluish pale; tarsi and feet light ash.

[I have recently compared this specimen with one from the Zambesi* in the British Museum, which was identified by the late Mr. G. R. Gray as *H. vitellinus*; and they appeared to be the same.

The present specimen is also identical with that which I referred (in 'The Ibis' for 1871, p. 254) to the Damara Weaver bird (*H. velatus*, of Vieillot)†; but on re-examining a Damara specimen in my collection, I am disposed to think that the latter, though very like the two Transvaal examples, is not absolutely identical with them, as it has the wing a trifle longer, the under mandible stouter, and the nostrils almost hidden by the frontal plumage, instead of being uncovered as in the two Transvaal specimens. The latter also much resemble the smaller specimens of *H. mariquensis*; but they have the wing shorter, the bill more elongated in proportion to its depth, and the foot smaller, especially as regards the length of the middle toe.—J. H. G.]

VIDUA PRINCIPALIS (Linn.). Dominican Widow bird.

Common about Rustenburg in small flights in winter plumage.

[Mr. Ayres sends a specimen shot 25th February in Potchefstroom, which appears by comparison with others at the British Museum to be an example of this species in its first plumage‡, with the striations on the upper parts, showing but slightly, in two shades of brown. Mr. Ayres states that in this stage it is very scarce: and he did not refer the specimen sent to this species; he says that it had the "irides dusky, bill dusky, with the gonyes pale, the tarsi and feet dusky horn; it was a solitary bird, feeding on small grass-

* The Zambesi country is quoted as a locality of *H. vitellinus* by Finsch and Hartlaub, *Vögel Ost-Afrika's*, p. 396.

† *Conf.* Andersson's 'Birds of Damaraland,' p. 169.

‡ A specimen in similar plumage was erroneously described under the name of *Estrela carmelita*, vide 'The Ibis,' 1868, p. 46, and 1873, p. 259.

seeds, much as an ordinary sparrow would do." Another, but more advanced, immature specimen, shot near Potchefstroom, 13th March, has the striations on the upper surface much more developed, though the markings, especially on the head are less clear and bright than in the adult bird in winter dress. Mr. Ayres sends three adults in winter plumage, shot at Rustenburg on 26th July and 9th August, and a male in full breeding-dress shot at Potchefstroom, 30th January.—J. H. G.]

344. *CHERA PROGNE* (Bodd.). Great Widow bird.

This species is found about Potchefstroom, as well as in the open valleys of the Magaliesbergen.

ORTYGOSPIZA POLYZONA (Temm.). Little Barred-breasted Finch.

This species is common about Rustenburg, and seems pretty well distributed throughout Transvaal.

345. *ESTRELDA DUFRESNII* (Vieill.). Dufresne's Finch.

Estrela melanogenys, Sund.

I met with one or two small flights of these pretty little fellows; they were amongst low bushes and grass, hunting on the ground for small seeds, and were most of them in very poor plumage.

[Mr. Ayres sends a male shot at Rustenburg on 12th June, in which the black throat and ear-coverts are well-developed, showing that this plumage is maintained in winter.—J. H. G.]

ESTRELDA CYANOASTRA (Daud.). Blue-cheeked Finch.

This is a very common species in the Rustenburg district; it is found in flights inhabiting bushy country.

[In 'The Ibis' for 1869, p. 294, I erroneously called this bird the "Purple-eared Finch," a name which is only applicable to the male of the more northern but closely allied species *E. phaenicotis*; in the southern bird the cheeks and ear-coverts are blue in both sexes.—J. H. G.]

ESTRELDA GRANATINA (Linn.). Granadine Finch.

Male, Rustenburg, 22nd June. Irides and eyelids scarlet; bill deep rose-red; tarsi and feet very dark ash-colour.

This species seems to keep very much to the low mimosa bush ; it always occurs in pairs.

346. PETRONIA PETRONELLA (Licht.). South - African Rock-Sparrow.

Female, Rustenburg, 12th July. Irides umber ; bill and upper mandible dusky brown, under mandible pale ; tarsi and feet dusky ash-colour.

I only shot this one specimen, which was feeding on the ground in company with *Fringillaria flaviventris*.

347. POLIOSPIZA GULARIS (Smith). Streaky - headed Sparrow.

This is as common a Sparrow about Rustenburg as *Passer arcuatus* (which I did not meet with in the Magaliesbergen) is at Potchefstroom. In habits the present species appears to be somewhat similar to *P. arcuatus*, congregating in winter in the same manner.

[In 'The Ibis' for 1864, p. 353, Mr. Ayres has given an account of *Poliospiza gularis*, as found by him breeding in Natal in December. Mr. Ayres's Rustenburg specimens were obtained in May, July, and August.—J. H. G.]

CRITHAGRA CHRYSOPYGA, Swains. Golden-rumped Grosbeak.

This species is pretty common about Rustenburg, where I found it congregated and feeding amongst stubbles on the farms, and sometimes also on the flowers of the parasite that the Sugar-birds are so fond of.

[Mr. Ayres's specimens were shot in July.—J. H. G.]

348. COLIUS ERYTHROMELON, Vieill. Quiriwa Coly.

Male, Rustenburg, 24th June. Irides pale grey ; bill, tip black, basal part and also bare skin round the eye crimson ; tarsi and feet rose-red (female similar).

This is the only species of Coly that I found amongst the Magaliesbergen ; it is there very common in families, and feeds on various berries ; its flight is very much like that of some Parrots, rapid and straight, with very quick beats of the wings.

STREPTOPELIA CAPICOLA (Sund.). Cape Turtle Dove.

This Dove and *Turtur senegalensis* are very common about Rustenburg; enough for a pie may be got at any time in an hour or two.

COLUMBA ARQUATRIX, Temm. Rameron Pigeon.

I found this Pigeon scattered rather sparsely amongst the Magaliesbergen during the winter months; and, according to my brother, it is not much more plentiful in summer: they are generally solitary birds; but I once saw about twenty together.

COLUMBA PHEONOTA, Gray. Roussard Pigeon.

These Pigeons were pretty common about the same district as the preceding species; and I saw them in pairs and shot some young birds amongst the ravines and precipitous clefts of the rocks, where, without doubt, they breed, and where I frequently heard their deep notes.

349. PHALACROTRERON DELALANDII, Bon. Delalande's Pigeon.

I found these handsome Pigeons somewhat scarce in the Magaliesbergen in winter; but my brother tells me that they are exceedingly plentiful there during our summer months, when wild fruits abound; they are fond of densely foliaged trees, keeping very quiet if any one approaches; and often one may walk quietly right under the trees where they are, when they dash out suddenly, generally one at a time. They are sometimes solitary, but often in small flocks; their food consists entirely of small berries; and for the pot they are not by any means to be despised.

FRANCOLINUS SWAINSONI, Smith. Swainson's Francolin.

Female, Rustenburg, 26th June. Bill black, but with the lower mandible and basal corners of the upper mandible scarlet; bare skin about the eye and throat scarlet; tarsi and feet black.

This species is exceedingly numerous in some parts of Magaliesbergen along the banks of the Crocodile or Limpopo River, and of the Eland's River, amongst the mountains.

350. *FRANCOLINUS NATALENSIS*, Smith. Natal Francolin.

Female, Rustenburg, 25th June. Irides dusky hazel; bill reddish brown, but the base, gape, and cere pale dingy yellow.

This Francolin is not very plentiful just round Rustenburg; but amongst the mountains it is as common as the preceding one, frequenting the same localities, and always found in wooded situations close to water.

351. *FRANCOLINUS SEMITORQUATUS*, Smith. Coqui Francolin.

Male and female, Rustenburg, 19th June and 7th August. Irides bright hazel; bill dusky brown, except the basal part of the lower mandible, and also the basal corners of the upper mandible, which are chrome-yellow; tarsi and feet bright chrome-yellow.

This is the commonest of the Francolins amongst the mountains of the Rustenburg district, and is generally to be found in coveys in the more open valleys, where the ground is dotted with scrub and trees; these birds are seldom far from water. They remind me of the English Partridge in their movements and flight when disturbed; with a good dog a fair bag may easily be made.

[The male sent by Mr. Ayres has a few small black feathers scattered upon the cheeks, which may probably be the remains of immature plumage.—J. H. G.]

EUPODOTIS RUFICRISTA, Smith. Rufous-crested Bustard.

Male, 28th June. Irides dusky tawny brown; bill lightish ashy, tinged with yellowish on the basal parts and dusky on the ridge; tarsi and feet nearly white.

Female, 26th June. Irides light tawny hazel; bill resembling that of the male; tarsi and feet yellowish white.

My brother and I came across a few of these birds on the Eland's River, in the Rustenburg district. They appear to be scarce and local, frequenting low thorns and other pretty thick cover.

[As Mr. Layard's description of the female of this Bustard in his 'Birds of South Africa' is unfortunately very meagre,

I may mention that the hen bird sent by Mr. Ayres differs from Sir A. Smith's plate of the male* in the following particulars (in addition to the absence of the crest referred to by Mr. Layard), viz. :—The crown of the head is mottled with two shades of brown, similar to those which appear on the mantle; the slaty cheek-stripe and black throat-stripe are wanting; the throat and chin are white; the neck, above and below, and the upper breast are mottled with two shades of brown; a white pectoral band divides the mottled brown of the upper breast from the black of the lower breast and abdomen; and the white on the lesser wing-coverts is somewhat more extended. This last remark applies equally to the male sent by Mr. Ayres, which also differs from Sir A. Smith's plate in having the throat of a creamy white on either side of the black stripe, in the presence of pale drab feathers scattered amongst the slaty-blue feathers of the cheek-stripe, of many such feathers amongst the slate-coloured plumage of the sides of the neck, and also in the presence of several white feathers on both sides of the upper breast, forming an imperfect pectoral band in place of the complete white band which characterizes the breast of the female. With these exceptions, Mr. Ayres's male agrees with Sir A. Smith's figure; and the points in which it differs from it are, no doubt, due either to the remains of immature plumage, or to the commenced assumption of winter dress.—J. H. G.]

ŒDICNEMUS CAPENSIS, Licht. Spotted Thicknee.

This species is sparsely distributed all over the Transvaal; at least in every part where I have been.

CURSORIUS RUFUS, Gould. Burchell's Courser.

This Courser is not nearly so common in the Rustenburg district as in that of Potchefstroom; but a few are occasionally to be met with.

ARDEOLA COMATA (Pall.) Squacco Heron.

Male in full breeding-dress, Potchefstroom, 25th October.

Irides very pale chrome-yellow; bare skin round the eye, gape, and bill about the nostrils bright grass-green; tip of

* Vide 'Zoology of South Africa,' Aves, pl. 4.

bill for about an inch black ; intermediate portion of bill and base (except round the nostrils) bright ashy blue ; upper surface of tarsi and toes ashy, with a tinge of light chrome about the joints and feet. Stomach crammed with crabs.

SARCIDIORNIS AFRICANA. African Knob-billed Goose.

Male, immature, Rustenburg, 25th June.

The specimen sent is the only one of the kind that I saw amongst the Magaliesbergen ; it came down to a shallow pool one morning as my brother and I were at breakfast ; and he made a successful stalk and floored it.

[The specimen sent is evidently a young bird in change ; it has acquired the lustrous adult plumage on the wings, but not elsewhere ; the feathers of the immature dress on the upper surface are a rather deep brown, edged with pale brown ; the feathers of the sides of the upper breast and of the thighs are pale drab, transversely barred with dark brown ; the remainder of the under surface is white, strongly tinged with drab, but unspotted, except very slightly on the under tail-coverts.—J. H. G.]

VIII.—*Preliminary Descriptions of new Birds from South America, and Remarks on some described Species.* By HANS, Graf von BERLEPSCH.

Fam. TANAGRIDÆ.

1. TANAGRA SCLATERI, sp. nov. (= *T. glaucocolpa*, Scl., nec *Tanagra glaucocolpa*, Cab.).

Hab. Orinoco district or Trinidad.

This bird is somewhat intermediate between *T. cana* and *T. episcopus*, having neither the plain blue shoulders of the former nor the whitish ones of the latter. The shoulders are of a beautiful whitish red or violet-blue, the outer webs of the wing-feathers of a more intense blue. The uropygium is likewise tinged with violet-blue. This species is more beautiful than either *T. cana* or *T. episcopus* ; and I have seen many specimens, all of the same preparation, coming most probably from the eastern part of Venezuela (Orinoco district) or Trinidad.